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means for generating an output image signal comprising an image file including both the digital image data corresponding to the images and separate category data including the one or more categories selected by the [user] control means, wherein the category data is separately accessible for each image apart from the image data[.]; and

means responsive to the computer initiated request for transferring the image file(s) corresponding to at least one particular category of the plurality of categories to the computer.

Please amend claim 7 as set forth below:

7. (Amended) An electronic camera as claimed in claim 1

wherein the camera further comprises a signal port for receiving externally generated user customized categories, and wherein the processor also stores the externally generated user customized categories in the memory and the [user] control means is further capable of selecting a particular one of the externally generated user customized categories.

Please amend claim 15 as set forth below:

15. (Amended) An electronic imaging system using an electronic camera as claimed in claim 7 in combination with a host processor, wherein the host processor provides the externally generated user customized categories to the signal port.

Please delete claim 16-25.

Please amend claim 27 as set forth below:

27. (Amended) An electronic imaging system as claimed in claim 15 wherein the signal port connects to a removable memory card, and the host processor provides the externally generated user customized categories to the signal port by writing the categories into the memory card.

Please amend claim 28 as set forth below:

28. (Amended) An electronic imaging system as claimed in claim 15 wherein a cable connection is provided between the signal port and the host processor, and the host processor provides the externally generated user customized categories over the cable connection to the signal port.

Please amend claim 29 as set forth below:

29. (Amended) An electronic camera for capturing images representing a variety of subjects and for providing captured images to a computer in response to a computer initiated request, said camera comprising;

an image sensor for capturing the images;

a converter stage for converting the images into digital image data;

a memory for storing a plurality of categories providing classification of the images by subject;

a processor having the capability of assigning the plurality of categories to the images captured by the image sensor, each category providing subject classification of one or more images;

control means for selecting one or more categories for the images;

means for storing the digital image data in image files; [and]

means for grouping the image files according to the plurality of categories[.]; and

means responsive to the computer initiated request for transferring the image files corresponding to at least one particular category of the plurality of categories to the computer.

Please amend claim 30 as set forth below:

30. (Amended) A method using an electronic camera for capturing images representing a variety of subjects and for providing captured images to a computer in response to a computer initiated request, said method comprising the steps of:

storing a plurality of categories providing classification of the images by subject;

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assigning at least one of the plurality of categories to the images,  
each category providing subject classification of one or more images;  
capturing the images with the electronic camera;  
converting the images into digital image data; [and]  
generating an output image signal comprising an image file  
including both the digital image data corresponding to the images and separate  
category data including the one or more categories selected by a control, wherein  
the category data is separately accessible for each image apart from the image  
data[.]; and  
transferring, in response to the computer initiated request, the  
image files corresponding to at least one particular category to the computer.

Please add new claims 35-38 as set forth below:

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35. The electronic camera according to claim 1 wherein the at  
least one particular category is selected on the computer.

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36. The electronic camera according to claim 35 wherein the  
computer is interconnected to the electronic camera via a cable interface, and  
wherein the plurality of categories are communicated from the electronic camera  
to the computer via the cable interface, and the at least one particular category is  
selected on the computer and downloaded to the electronic camera via the cable  
interface.

37. The electronic camera according to claim 29 wherein the at  
least one particular category is selected on the computer.

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38. The electronic camera according to claim 37 wherein the  
computer is interconnected to the electronic camera via a cable interface, and  
wherein the plurality of categories are communicated from the electronic camera  
to the computer via the cable interface, and the at least one particular category is  
selected on the computer and downloaded to the electronic camera via the cable  
interface.